

Ski trip
p. 3

College
Fair p. 5

The Voice

Algona High School

Edited by: Kuleen Parsons and Katie Riley

March 9, 2012

The yearly competition

Sam Curtis

Superstars is coming up, and it has the whole school excited. Superstars will be held on Thursday, March 15, this year. The activities will be starting at around 4 o'clock.

This is the first year that the new Titonka students will be participating in the activities, and they have no idea how much fun it will be. Jacob Lampman says, "I'm really excited; it sounds like a lot of fun."

Superstars is a competition between classes to see which is the most dominant at Algona High School. Superstars has competitions of all different sorts, including academic things like quiz bowl, athletic things like steal the bacon, and just casual games like chess and checkers.

Superstars wouldn't be possible if our great staff didn't step up and run the

games, and they do a great job.

The first competition of every Superstars is the class count, where you get points for what percentage of your class is in attendance. Next comes dodgeball or quiz bowl, then come the sign up events. After the first part of the games, there is a break for pizza at the concession stand, the talent show, and the team dancing competition.

You can already start gaining points for Superstars, as the newest category is the coloring contest. Coloring sheets are available in the library. The top 10 pictures will earn points for their class.

Superstars is a lot of fun, so make sure you sign up or at least show up and do drop in events to help your class as much as you can!

Welcome to the Jungle

3:45 Opening ceremonies

4:00 Dodgeball (open)

4:00 Jungle Bowl

Drop-in events after dodgeball until 5:30

4:45 Arm Wrestling

4:45 Texas Hold 'Em

4:45 Team Ski Walk

4:45 Putting

4:45 Steal The Bacon

4:45 3 on 3

5:15 Bag Game

5:15 Human Ladder

5:15 Weird Shuttle Relay

5:15 Elephant Ring

5:15 Chipping

*** Halftime Break (Visit the OASIS and watch the show!)* **

6:00 Talent Show

6:30 Swamp Machine

6:30 Tire Bridge

6:30 Boffo Relay

6:30 Musical Chairs

7:00 Limbo

7:00 Lightning (open)

7:15 Tug Of War

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Independent living

Janet Hofmann

Independent living is a class for seniors taught by Mrs. Bormann. This class is meant to prepare students for living on their own and also prepare students for college life.

This semester, they have already covered useful life skills such as laundry, stain removal, money management, and housing. They also cover budgeting with an "apartment group" at the beginning of every month, in which students much learn how to manage their money and cut back on things that are not essential.

At the beginning of this week, the students finished up making fleece tie blankets. Rachel Feuring said, "My fleece blanket rocks!"

The students had to buy the fleece and spent class time cutting and tying the blankets and they had the option to embroider them if they wanted to do so.

Next, the independent living students will be covering how to shop for groceries on a budget and will be doing a cooking unit.



Above: Students in independent living work on their tie blankets.

Give some blood!

Megan Crosser

On Monday, March 5th, the Algona National Honor Society and Bishop Garrigan's National Honor Society sponsored a blood drive in the Bishop Garrigan gym. There was a sign up sheet in the high school office where you also picked up a consent form. If you are under the age of 18, your parent must sign the consent form. All blood givers must be at least 16 years old and weigh at least 120 pounds. ID's are required as you walk in the doors. "Everyone should do it, it's for a good cause," said Paige Becker.

There were 44 total donors at the blood drive. Twenty-eight whole blood procedures and 10 doubles were done, for a total of 38 draws.

Giving blood is a good way to help many peo-

ple keep their lives. Every three seconds in the United States on average there are 40,000 units of blood needed every day. Donating is very healthy; they check your blood pressure, heart rate, temperature, and iron levels. If your iron level is too low, you won't be able to donate.

Men have a greater benefit to donating, it lowers their chance of hemochromatosis, which is an iron overload. This can be deadly and can cause heart disease and other medical problems. Men reduce this risk by 50 percent if they donate three times a year.

Save a life and donate!

Right: Ethan Simpson works on his tie blanket.



Can you smell that? SPRING!

Sawyer Brandt

Well, boys and girls, the 2012 school year is rounding to a halt. In a matter of weeks, the lovely seniors will be gone and just two weeks after that, you will be too! Get a swimsuit and wear a t-shirt because the end of the third quarter is on March 16. The fourth quarter has three no school days, as well as four early out days.

Seniors' semester tests days will be Monday

and Tuesday, May 14th and 15th. The seniors' last "school" day is on May 18th and commencement is on the following Sunday, May 20th. If AHS has no more "snow days," everyone else will be let out on their summer break on June 1st. The semester test days for underclassmen are the last three days of the school year.

Trap shooting

AJ Wagner

Last year the Algona and Bishop Garrigan schools started a trap shooting team. This wouldn't have happened, except Larry Lenz and Clarence Metzger pulled some strings and were able to set it up through the Izaak Walton League. Both teams placed pretty well last year at State.

This year, the trap shooting season is coming up faster than you think. There will be 10 meets and many practices. The trap shoot-

ing teams held two pancake breakfasts and have raised enough money to purchase enough shells for the season.

Hopefully this year will be a good turnout and they will make it to State and show how well Algona can be. If you haven't signed up or couldn't make it to the meeting, just slip out to Isaak Walton and talk to the coaches, Larry or Clarence. Collin Julius says, "I can't wait to dust some clays!"

Ski trip

Rachel Feuring

The Algona High sophomores went to Mount Kato for the annual ski trip. The trip was held on Wednesday, March 7th. The original date was cancelled due to rain in Mankato causing the snow to melt.

This year 80 sophomores went on the trip and the chaperones were Mr. Cecil, Mrs. Kuecker, Mr. Kuecker, and Mrs. Bjuström. Students left AHS at 8:30 a.m. and arrived at Mount Kato at 10 a.m. They then left Mount Kato at 3:15 p.m. and arrived home at around 5 p.m.

The charge for the trip was a total of \$31: \$15 for ski rentals and \$16 for lift tickets. Mrs. Bjuström says,

"Not many schools do ski trips anymore, so our school is very lucky to have this trip still. It's a great opportunity and most students will say that it's one of the most fun things they will do during their high school career."

At Mount Kato, there are 19 trails. Four are beginner trails, eight are intermediate, and seven are advanced. The resort offers different options to choose from instead of skiing, there's snow tubing and snow boarding. The resort also has a two level chalet with food service. Mount Kato is a great way to have fun and enjoy the outdoors.

Dance, dance, dance!

Taylor Setzer

The dance team ends their season this weekend with a showcase of routines. The theme is Michael Jackson, JAM! The show starts at 6:00 P.M. The cost is 3 dollars for students and 5 dollars for adults. The team will be performing all of the routines that they have done this year, plus a couple more that have not yet been seen.

The team will also hold a clinic that morning for the elementary and middle school students. The younger kids will perform the routines they learn in the morning at the show. Also performing at the spring show is the Bishop Garrigan Danz Squad.

Last weekend, three girls from the AHS dance team performed in the All-

Iowa Honor Dance team. The team performed at halftime of a girls' basketball championship game. The girls performing from Algona were: Taylor Setzer, Morgan Goche, and Chyan Metzger.

The girls took part in over 20 hours of practice and learning from Thursday to Saturday. They then took their spots and performed in the kick portion of the routine. The girls tried out along with three other members of the AHS team earlier this fall. All three girls made the team for the kick category. Other categories to perform in were pom and hip-hop. Congratulations to all three girls!!



Above: Pete O'Leary, Colton Rooney, and Hunter Norland have fun on the ski trip.



Left: Ben Larson rides the ski lift.

4 School News/Editorials

Algona High School

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Dog the Bounty Hunter

Dylan Cink

If you enjoy watching criminals being chased down by a bounty hunter and not a cop, this show is for you. The main star in *Dog the Bounty Hunter* is Duane "Dog" Chapman, who is a fugitive recovery agent, otherwise known as a bounty hunter. Dog's other fugitive agents include his wife, Beth Chapman, his two sons, Duane Chapman II and Leland Chapman, and his brother, Tim "Youngblood" Chapman.

The main story be-

hind this show is that there are people on the run for numerous crimes all around, and when the police can't catch them, that is when the bounty hunters come into place. At times, the bounty hunters actually do a better job than the police do. "He does a great job at what he does," says Zach McKenna.

This action-packed reality T.V. show can be viewed on A&E at numerous times.

Act of Valor

Jackie Brunow

Act of Valor is a heroist movie with a group of Navy SEALs in a film like no other in Hollywood's history. It's a seat-gripping journey when a mission to recover a kidnapping ends up in a big threat to everyone. Highly trained Navy SEALs must quickly respond to a deadly threat to their own country.

This story follows these brave Navy SEALs through a mission of saving so many people's lives and

risking their own. It's minute-to-minute action that has you on the edge of your seat the whole time. People are saying, "This isn't just a movie, it's just showing us what really happens in the world today."

Act of Valor is rated R for strong violence and language. It was given a 6.5 rating out of 10. It was in Algona last Friday and is still currently there.

Rusted all the way to the finish line

D.J. Throckmorton

On Saturday, March 3, two teams from Algona High School represented AHS in the Western Iowa Science and Engineering Fair in Sheldon. Students who went from AHS were Justine Yeoman, Emily Connick, Megan Eden, and Bethany Pearson.

Justine Yeoman and

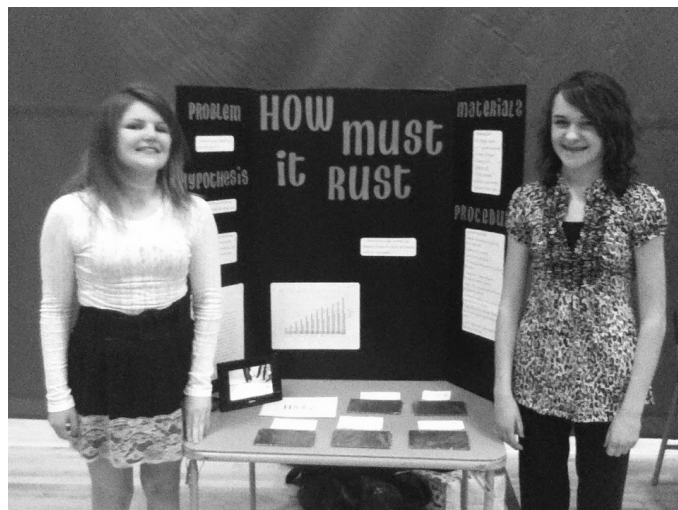
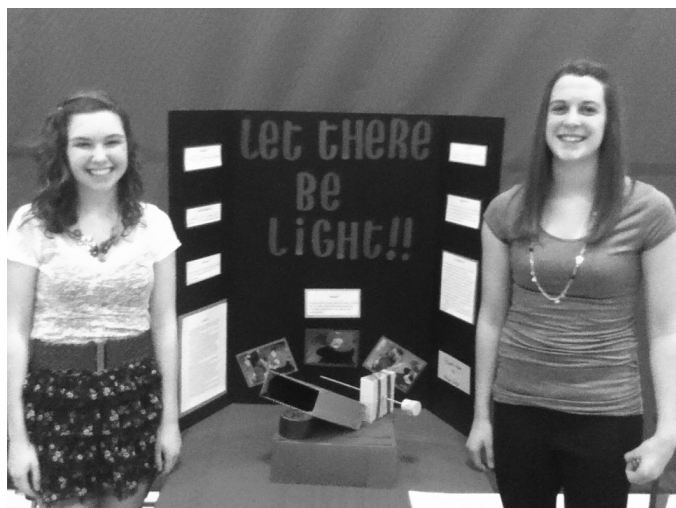
Emily Connick were one team and they placed second in the high school team division with their project "Let there be light." They made a hand powered generator and compared it to other energy sources.

Overall winners in the high school team division

were Megan Eden and Bethany Pearson with their project "How must it rust." They tested to see if water, salt water, bleach, or 32% vinegar would make a substance rust faster. Bleach won.

These two groups will represent Algona again

at the State Science, Engineering, and Technology Fair on the Iowa State campus on March 30 & 31. "We are all looking forward to going to the State science fair," says Bethany Pearson.



School News

5

Algona High School

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College Fair!

Jeremy Black

On Wednesday, March 7th, AHS held the College Fair. All juniors and seniors got to attend it. The juniors went for the whole time while the seniors came in for the second half. The College Fair was held mostly in the gym, with some holding informational meetings in Room 2.

For the four year private schools, there were colleges like Drake, Wartburg, Buena Vista University, and plenty more. The four year public colleges included some like Iowa State University, University of Nebraska, Wayne State College from Wayne Nebraska, and many more. Along with those colleges, there were professional, proprietary, cosmetology, military, miscellaneous training, and community colleges.

For the underclassmen who couldn't partake in the College Fair, there are some questions to think about for next year or even the year to follow. Are you looking for a campus with a large number of students, small, or in between? What type of post-secondary insti-

tution are you looking for? A university, college, vocational-technical, community college, or even the military? Think of the costs of college, things like tuition, room and board, food, books, transportation, personal expenses, and recreational activities.

Things you may want to ask college representatives include: what type of financial aid is offered? What are the admission criteria? How safe is the institution? What type of transportation is available? What types of advising can be provided?

When you have a school in mind that you want to go to, there are certain things you should do. Set up a tour of the college. When you go on tour, ask to meet with teachers and/or students who can tell you about areas you're interested in. Talk to someone about tuition, scholarships, and financial aid. Remember, don't be afraid to ask questions! Ask yourself, "Will this school be able to meet my needs academically, socially, economically, and intellectually?"

Senior Spotlight

Tashia Lemus

Jackie Lee Brunow is 17 years old. She was born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on March 31, 1994. Her parents are Rich and Theresa Hutchison. Jackie has a little brother in middle school, Trent, an older sister, Andrea, and a oldest sister, Ashley. Jackie has a Bichon, Sophie. Jackie has an amazing niece, Eden, whom she loves very much. Jackie works at Primetime when she is not in school.

Jackie's favorite subjects in school are all of Mrs. Bormann's classes. She's involved in band and Color Guard at Algona High School. She is a senior this

year at Algona High School and enjoys the freedom of open campus. Jackie enjoys her open periods and driving around. Jackie will be 18 on March 31 this year.

She plans on attending Iowa Lakes Community College after graduating from AHS. She will be studying to be a CNA in May of this year. If you see Jackie in the halls at school, don't be afraid to say hello!



On to State

Jessica Mueller

The Algona High School District Individual Speech students traveled to Garrigan on Saturday, February 25 for District Individual Speech. Performances from AHS students included acting, public address, poetry, prose, lit program, original oratory, radio news announcing, story telling, and after dinner speaking.

State Individual Speech Contest will be held on Saturday, March 10th, in

Cylinder. In order to go to State, you need to get a Division I from District Speech. Thirty-five students from AHS are advancing to State Speech.

Ben Schmitt said, "I really liked it, it was a really fun time. I met a lot of really cool people, it was a rewarding experience." Good luck to the students who are going on to State.



Left: Amber Lenz and Bergen Brown speak to a college representative at Wednesday's College Fair.

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AMA Supercross

Micah Lavrenz

The points battle in AMA is heating up. Ryan Vilopoto has a solid first place lead with 205 points. Ryan Dungey is in second place with 192 points, right ahead of James Steward with 152 points. Rounding out the top four is Chad Reed with 128 points. Chad Reed is out for the remainder of the season due to a motorcross accident. Ryan Vilopoto has had a very successful season with already five wins on the season. He extended his points lead this past weekend, winning in St. Louis. There are eight races left in the Monster Energy AMA Supercross Championship.

The AMA Supercross events take place in indoor stadiums. The sta-

diums are usually indoor football fields. The dirt bikes used are 450cc bikes from different brands. Many of the brands are KTM, Honda, Kawasaki, and Suzuki.

The Monster Energy Supercross Championship travels all over the United States. Event places are Anaheim CA, Phoenix AZ, Los Angeles CA, Oakland CA, Anaheim CA, San Diego CA, Arlington TX, Atlanta GA, St. Louis MO, Daytona FL, Indianapolis IN, Toronto ON, New Orleans LA, Seattle WA, Salt Lake City UT, and Las Vegas NV.

"I hope I don't end up like Chad Reed when I race this season," says Nathyn Ternary, avid dirt bike enthusiast.

Great race

Vandy

On the week of February 18th through the 23rd, drivers prepared for the biggest event of any racer's career, the Daytona 500. It's a race that legends have won and future Hall of Fame members will be a part of. Last year's defending champion, Trevor Bayne, was wishful for a repeat performance. Men like Jeff Gordon, Mark Martin, and Dale Earnhardt Jr., among others, were trying to show what they have left in this great race.

The weekend at Daytona started with qualifying followed by the Daytona Duels. After this attraction, this set up a wonderful line-up. Daytona had other featured events such as the truck race, won by Joe King, Danny Grein, Bryce Hoffman, Chris Grether, Jace Taylor, Derek Person, Christian Parker, and Michael Erpelding.

After two delays in

American

racing action due to rain, Monday night was the spot for when the drivers would show off to the world. With a lot of competition during the race, such people as Jimmie Johnson, Danica Patrick, defending Daytona winner Trevor Bayne, and Kurt Busch got caught in crashes early on. The few who got by managed to stay at the top for the night.

At the end it came down to Dale Jr., Greg Biffle, Matt Kenseth, and Denny Hamlin. The Fords of Biffle and Kenseth representing Jack Rousch Racing, showed dominance all night while Dale Jr. was trailing by just seconds. On the final lap, after hours of anticipation and drama, Matt Kenseth outlasted Dale Jr. to win his second Daytona 500.

This week NASCAR heads to Phoenix, Arizona. Check your local listings for times in your area. Good luck to all the drivers.



NFL Combine

Zach McKenna

Every year the National Football League holds the Combine. The NFL Combine is where the closely ranked players or the hidden ones really get to show off who they are. The NFL Combine was held April 26 through the 28 and it is held in Indianapolis every year.

At the NFL Combine, athletes do many different things so they put on

a good performance for the scouts. The forty yard dash, bench press, vertical jump, broad jump, three cone drill, and 20 and 60 yard shuttle are all performed in front of the crowd. The fastest time this year for the forty yard dash was 4.33 by Josh Robinson. The fastest time ever in the NFL Combine was by Chris Johnson with a time of 4.24.

The Combine isn't just anything that you can walk into and participate in. The Combine is something that you get invited to, but that does not mean that you are automatically in the NFL. After the Combine, the teams get a choice of who they would like to get in the draft. If they are not drafted, they always can get invited back. A lot of players will

join the practice team where they can make a living but it is not anything special.

The eyes in this year's Combine were on Andrew Luck and Robert Griffin III, they both are quarterbacks. If you want to see the future in the NFL, just watch the NFL Combine and it will be well worth it.